



Together, we can.

November 15, 2007

The Honorable Luke A. Rankin
201 Beatty Street
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Rankin:

I am very enthusiastic about the prospect of a new Educational Broadband Service to serve educational needs in school districts across South Carolina and would like to take this opportunity to urge the Broadband Technology and Communications Study Committee to make this vision a reality.

The State Department of Education works closely with ETV to provide education resources to students and teachers in each of the 85 school districts. ETV's technology allows The State Department of Education to offer content that supports classroom learning and professional development for teachers. The Broadband Technology and Communications Study Committee are addressing issues that are critical to our mission. The State Department of Education is committed to accelerating innovation, providing more public school choice, elevating and reinvigorating teachers and providing effective accountability. Wireless broadband will support each of those priorities.

Building out the state's EBS assets is key to the future success of our state. It will provide the kind of mobile, digital services that students and teachers thrive on. It will give us a unique competitive advantage with virtual schools, the state's laptop initiatives, teacher training, and the accessibility of new educational content.

South Carolina, like other EBS licensees across the country, should be able to take full advantage of the financial and educational value of the spectrum ETV and the school districts have utilized since 1982. The State Department of Education is committed to working with the Broadband Technology and Communications Study Committee to ensure that the wireless build out serves students and teachers throughout our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Rex", is written over the printed name.

Jim Rex
State Superintendent of Education

cc: Members, Broadband Technology and Communications Study
Committee